



Department of Commerce

Innovation is in our nature.

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PLANNER'S UPDATE

Welcome to the Planner's Update, an electronic newsletter from The Department of Commerce, Growth Management Services. We send this newsletter monthly to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State.

Please feel free to send us any comments or ideas for how to make this newsletter more useful. You can also use the link below to provide additional names of planners who might like to subscribe. Please also consider sharing this newsletter with planning commissioners.

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A monthly newsletter to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State

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www.commerce.wa.gov/growth
www.washington-apa.org
www.smartgrowth.org
www.planningpaw.org
www.mrsc.org

1. DRAFT GUIDANCE ON SEPA AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

The Washington Department of Ecology has released draft guidance on addressing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) during review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The guidance addresses proposals that will result in GHG emissions or may be vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Agency decision-making that includes a SEPA analysis is an important part of reducing GHG emissions. The guidance is intended to help lead agencies, applicants, and the public use SEPA to:

- Assess greenhouse gas emissions that could be expected from various types of projects.
- Understand the environmental impacts of those emissions.
- Support consistency within and between agencies in their assessments.

The guidance also provides information about sources and types of GHG as well as suggestions on how emissions can be reduced or avoided.

The guidance can be accessed on a series of linked Web pages at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/sepa.htm>

The Department of Ecology will take written comments on the draft guidance until June 25, 2010. Comments should be sent by email to sepaguidance@ecy.wa.gov

Please join the new SEPA Updates Listserv at: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=ECOLOGY-SEPA-UPDATES>

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2. GOVERNOR'S SMART COMMUNITIES AWARD WINNERS

Governor Chris Gregoire has announced the winners of her 2010 Smart Communities Awards for creating livable communities in Washington State.

"As Washington recovers from this downturn in the economy, the work of local governments and their partners in creating vibrant, quality communities is vital," said Governor Gregoire. "The leadership of these award winners helps to make Washington a great state in which to live and do business."

The Governor's Smart Communities Awards to counties will be presented June 16 at the Washington State Association of Counties joint district meeting in Grand Mound. City winners will receive awards at the Association of Washington Cities annual conference in Vancouver on June 24.

"The 2010 Governor's Smart Communities Award winners reflect the wide variety of efforts and collaborations that make up growth management planning in Washington," said Rogers Weed, Director, Washington State Department of Commerce. "Communities can move forward economically when good, collaborative work like this is being accomplished." Many of the projects included collaborations between government and the private sector.

For more information on the Governor's Smart Communities Awards or the Growth Management Act, visit www.commerce.wa.gov/growth.

2010 Governor's Smart Communities Award Winners

Smart Vision Award – Comprehensive Planning

- Skagit County-wide Urban Growth Area Open Space Plan
- City of Bellevue Bel-Red Subarea Plan
- City of Snoqualmie Downtown Master Plan

Smart Choices Award – Implementation of a Comprehensive Plan

- Whatcom County and City of Bellingham Housing Action Plan
- City of Tacoma Mixed-use Centers Update Project
- City of Chehalis Renaissance Project Downtown Revitalization Plan

Smart Partnerships Award – Development Project to Implement a Plan

- City of Vancouver Waterfront Development Master Plan
- City of Duvall Main Street Reconstruction Project

Judges' Merit Award

- City of Seattle Neighborhood Planning Outreach & Engagement
- Grays Harbor 2020 Vision and Action Plan: Building a Sustainable Grays Harbor
- City of Hoquiam Residential Sidewalk Partnership program

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3. AMENDMENTS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE RULES GUIDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GMA

The Washington State Department of Commerce is developing a set of minor amendments to the administrative rules guiding implementation of the GMA. These amendments primarily address statutory changes that occurred during the 2009 and 2010 legislative sessions. Commerce is also addressing guidance on affordable housing incentives, the remaining issue from the major update in 2007-2010, and four additional changes raised under a petition for rule amendment.

We are taking comments on a preliminary draft until June 18, 2010. To see a copy of the preliminary draft and provide comments, go to www.commerce.wa.gov/wacupdate. We expect to release the proposed rule in mid June, conduct hearings in August and adopt the final rule in September. For more information, contact Dave Andersen at 360.725.3052.

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4. STATE ENERGY STRATEGY

The Department of Commerce is launching an effort to revise the State Energy Strategy (SES), Washington's comprehensive plan for meeting our future energy needs. This project is the result of action taken during the 2010 legislative session. An update to the state's energy strategy is due to the Governor and the Legislature on December 1, 2010, with a full revision to be delivered by December 1, 2011. This legislation directed the revision of the state energy strategy and declared that a successful strategy must balance three goals to:

- 1) Maintain competitive energy prices;
- 2) Foster a clean energy economy and jobs; and
- 3) Meet obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Commerce has refocused its mission on growing and improving jobs in Washington State. Energy is a key sector of the state's economy and a high priority for Commerce. The SES, last revised in 2003, does not reflect the needs and opportunities presented by our growing demand for energy, clean energy technologies and resources, and the state's obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. An up-to-date energy roadmap is needed to help maintain competitive energy prices and to establish our state as a global clean energy economy leader.

Commerce is committed to an open, collaborative process and will regularly solicit input and feedback as both the update and complete revision of the SES are developed. Information will be available on the project web site regarding past energy strategies, guiding legislation, advisory and technical committee activities, and schedule of events. Click [here](#) to visit Commerce's State Energy Strategy Web site.

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5. NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR ALLOWING ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2009, the Washington State legislature passed bill 2SBH 1481 to encourage the transition to electric vehicles. The Act requires the following:

- By July 1, 2010, the development regulations of cities located adjacent to I-5 in Snohomish, Pierce, and Thurston counties, and larger King County jurisdictions adjacent to I-5, I-90, I-405, and SR 520 must allow electric vehicle infrastructure (EVI), such as rapid charging stations and battery exchange stations as a use in all zones, except for residential, resource, or critical areas. Counties must allow EVI as a use within 1- mile of these highways.*
- By July 1, 2011, the requirement to allow electric vehicle infrastructure extends statewide to all cities adjacent to these highways, and to counties for areas within one mile of these highways.
- Also, by July 1, 2011, all cities and counties statewide must allow battery charging stations as a use in all zones, except for residential, resource, or critical areas.

Guidance for local governments is under development at www.psrc.org/growth/tools/ev - under "Meeting Information". The guidance should be finalized in July 2010.

**The guidance lists 2010 affected jurisdictions as Arlington, Bellevue, Bothell, Des Moines, DuPont, Everett, Federal Way, Fife, Issaquah, Kent, Kirkland, Lacey, Lakewood, Lynnwood, Marysville, Mercer Island, Milton, Mountlake Terrace, Olympia, Redmond, Renton, SeaTac, Seattle, Shoreline, Tacoma, Tumwater, and counties for areas within 1 mile of listed highways.*

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